

I urge and welcome support from my colleagues in further clarifying the ICWA to ensure no more American Indian or Alaska Native children are lost.

**FIVE STRAIGHT STATE TITLES
FOR SIXTH DISTRICT BASEBALL
TEAM**

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, the Sixth District of North Carolina became the home of the AAU North Carolina State Championship baseball team for the fifth straight year. The Jamestown Jaguars captured the title after five tough games, winning four of them and losing only one. The Jaguars have been the North Carolina State Champions since 1997.

Concord, North Carolina was the site of the final showdown between the Jaguars and the Catawba Valley Storm. The Storm gave the Jaguars their only tournament loss in the third game, by a score of 3–2. The rematch for the Championship ended with the Jaguars winning 5–1.

Coach Dean Sink complemented the team's athletic ability and effort, telling the Jamestown News that "their maturity and camaraderie on and off the field is what really sets them apart."

The Jaguars are in Tennessee to begin the AAU Nationals in Kingsport from July 26 through August 3.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Dean Sink and his assistant coaches.

Members of the championship team include Anthony Autry, Chad Baker, T.J. Clegg, Travis High, Gator Lankford, Jessie Lewter, Matt McSwain, Mitch Sailors, Alex Sink, J.K. Whited, and Kunta Hicks. The Jaguars are coached by Dean Sink and his assistants, David Baker, Chuck Sharp, and Tony Clegg.

On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate the Jamestown Jaguars on winning the state title and we wish them the best of luck in the coming national tourney.

**H. CON. RES. 197: COPD AWARE-
NESS MONTH—OCTOBER 2001**

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today along with my distinguished colleague from Georgia, I rise to introduce a resolution that would designate this October as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease awareness month. This resolution will address the unmet need of raising the level of national awareness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, or COPD—a debilitating disease that affects an estimated 32 million Americans, is currently the nation's fourth leading cause of death, but yet little is known about it. In 1998 COPD was respon-

sible for approximately 107,000 deaths and 668,362 hospitalizations. Furthermore, its devastating effects drain the U.S. economy of an estimated \$30.4 billion each year.

COPD is an umbrella term used to describe the airflow obstruction associated mainly with emphysema and chronic bronchitis. Emphysema—which affects three million Americans causes irreversible lung damage by weakening and breaking the air sacs within the lungs. An additional nine million Americans suffer from chronic bronchitis, an inflammatory disease that begins in the smaller airways of the lung and gradually advances to the larger airways. Both conditions decrease the lungs' ability to take in oxygen and remove carbon dioxide. Long-term smoking—the most common cause of COPD—is responsible for 80–90 percent of all cases, while other risk factors include heredity, second-hand smoke, air pollution, and a history of frequent childhood respiratory infections. Common symptoms of COPD include shortness of breath, chronic coughing, chest tightness, and increased effort to breathe.

Mr. Speaker, I have focused on respiratory health care issues for many years, and I receive numerous letters from my constituents back in Florida, who live with progressive chronic respiratory illnesses, asking me to raise their voices on Capitol Hill. COPD is devastating and is not receiving the appropriate amount of attention. In 1999, COPD was the fourth leading cause of death in Florida, and the most current estimates from the National Health Lung and Blood Institute show COPD incident rates to be on the rise—in fact, while incident rates of all other leading causes of death in America are decreasing, COPD is increasing. By 2020, the Center for Disease Control believes COPD will be the third leading cause of death in the United States.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for this progressive and irreversible disease. But, if patients receive early diagnosis, there are treatment plans available to provide symptom relief and slow the progression of COPD. 16 million Americans have been diagnosed with COPD, and an equal number suffer from the disease but have yet to be diagnosed.

It is likely that we all know somebody with COPD—whether we live with it personally, or have a family member, friend or staff member with COPD. Designating the month of October as COPD awareness month is an opportunity for us all to familiarize ourselves with COPD so that we can attempt to alleviate the suffering and hopefully reduce the death rate associated with COPD. Please support this much-needed resolution.

**ROUND II EMPOWERMENT ZONE/
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY FLEXI-
BILITY ACT OF 2001**

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing, along with my colleague Congressman Capuano and other Members of the Empowered Communities Caucus, the Round II Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Community

(EZ/EC) Flexibility Act of 2001, to provide funding authority and correct some inequities and inconsistencies with the Round II program. In 1999, 15 Round II urban and 5 rural empowerment zones were awarded to communities which designed the best strategic plans for comprehensive revitalization. The Empowerment Zone program is a 10 year project that targets federal grants to distressed urban and rural communities for community and economic development and provides tax and regulatory relief to attract or retain businesses.

Cumberland County, located in my Congressional District, is one of the 15 urban sites nationwide to win this designation, which is expected to create more than 6,000 new jobs over 10 years. Unfortunately, Cumberland County has only received approximately \$8.5 million of the \$30 million expected over the past 3 years. Round II empowerment zones did not receive the same Title XX block grant mandatory spending authority as the Round I zones did in 1997 and have to rely on the discretionary appropriations process each year. Even though the President requested full funding in FY02 (\$150 million for the EZ program) the House Appropriations Committee did not include any funding for urban zones for the next fiscal year.

The legislation I am introducing today provides general funding authorization for the Round II EZ/ECs by authorizing the Secretary of HUD to make grant awards totaling \$100,000,000 to each of the 15 Round II urban empowerment zones and the Secretary of Agriculture to make grant awards totaling \$40,000,000 to each of the Round II rural empowerment zones and grant awards totaling \$3,000,000 to each of 20 rural enterprise communities. This designation runs until 2009, and our zones must receive assurance that Congress will support continued funding, otherwise, they cannot be expected to operate and achieve long term capital plans or leverage private sector commitments to major infrastructure projects.

This legislation also includes clarification of the law which allows EZ/ECs to apply for community renewal status without the risk of losing already appropriated Federal funds. We have included language to broaden the definition of "economic development", which is the essence of the Zone's strategic plan, and have granted specific authorization for grants to be used as matching funds for other relevant federal grant programs, all in an effort to offer the EZ/EC program maximum flexibility. For every federal EZ dollar obligated, there are ten more dollars from the private sector committed to economic development in Cumberland County.

Our communities have already invested considerable resources in securing the Round II EZ/EC designations. Congress has a responsibility to carry out its promise to these distressed communities by making federal funding and tax incentives available to ensure new jobs, revitalize neighborhoods and spur economic growth over the next decade.

It is vital that we secure full funding for Round II Empowerment zones and Enterprise communities, so they may continue and complete their federally approved economic development plans. I urge the House to adopt the legislation before us today.